

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE  
REUNITING FAMILIES ACT

**HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 4, 2009*

Ms. HIRONO. Madam Speaker, aloha! I rise today in support of the Reuniting Families Act, a bill introduced by Congressman MICHAEL HONDA. I am proud to be an original cosponsor of this important bill.

There are currently 5.8 million people in the family immigration backlog waiting unconscionable periods of time to reunite with their family members. The Reunifying Families Act takes important steps toward fixing our broken family immigration system by reducing the waiting times for legal immigrants.

One important piece of Mr. HONDA's bill is the inclusion of the Filipino Veterans Family Reunification Act (H.R. 2412), a bill I have introduced for the past two congressional sessions. My bill would exempt the sons and daughters of Filipino World War II veterans from the cap on immigration numbers that have resulted in waiting periods for up to two decades for immigrant visas to the United States.

I have listened to many heartbreaking stories of our Filipino veterans, many of whom are in their 80s and 90s, waiting patiently with the hope that one day that their children will be able to come to the United States to care for them. I am glad that the Filipino Veterans Family Reunification Act is a part of the Reuniting Families Act.

The family bond is precious and it is the bedrock of society. Any policy that would keep family members apart for decades at a time, husband from wife, mother from child, is not morally defensible. The real solution is to reward immigrants for following the law, not punish them with unreasonably long separations.

I look forward to working with my colleagues by providing for the reunification of all our families.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF  
WALTER WYATT SHORTER

**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 4, 2009*

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, the city of Camden and indeed the entire state of Alabama recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor him and pay tribute to the memory of Walter Wyatt Shorter.

For more than 50 years, Mr. Shorter dedicated his life to serving his country, church, family and career.

Born in New York City, Mr. Shorter survived polio as a young child. In 1949, he graduated from the Fishburne Military Academy in Waynesboro, Virginia. He then enrolled in the Virginia Military Institute where he attained the rank of company commander of C Company and earned a Bachelor of Arts in Chemistry. He was commissioned as an officer in the Marine Corps and rose to the rank of captain where he admirably served his country on several military campaigns.

Mr. Shorter continued his education and received a Master of Science in Pulp and Paper

Science and Chemical Engineering from the University of Maine and was inducted into Tau Beta Pi and the Society of the Sigma Xi.

Throughout his lifetime, Mr. Shorter was devoted to serving the community in the paper industry. He was a frontrunner in the development of recycled paper use in corrugated containers. He spent 21 years working for Union Camp Corporation and held the positions of vice president and residential manager at the Prattville mill. He became president of MacMillan Bloedel, Inc. in 1978 and managed the successful expansion of MacMillan Bloedel in Pine Hill.

Mr. Shorter served as national president of the Paper Industry Management Association, president of the Alabama State Chamber of Commerce, chairman of the Alabama Alliance of Business and Industry, director of the Four-drier Kraft Board Group and was a member of the Alabama Council on Economic Education.

He had a genuine love for the people of Camden, serving as a volunteer for his church, local school systems and the J. Paul Jones Hospital. He served as a trustee for Huntingdon College, a Lay leader in the Episcopal Church and a member of the "13" in Montgomery. He also served on the boards of the First Alabama Bankshares, Jenkins Brick Corporation, and The Nature Conservancy of Alabama.

Madam Speaker, Walter Wyatt Shorter dedicated his entire life to the service of others, all-the-while being a devoted husband, father to five children, and grandfather to 11 wonderful grandchildren.

He will be missed by his family—his wife of 51 years, Gayle Prince Shorter; their children, Walter Wyatt Shorter Jr., Margaret Shorter Robinson, Mathew Peasley Shorter, John David Shorter, and Charles Christopher Shorter; his grandchildren, Mary Margaret Wadsworth, Samantha Glenn Shorter, Margaret Ashley Shorter, Emily Wyatt Shorter, Katherine Gibbs Shorter, Jackson Sean Ours, Olivia Grace Shorter, Noelle Elizabeth Shorter, Calder Christopher Shorter, Davis Troy Shorter, Maggie-Alisabeth Gayle Shorter; and his nephews, Jeffery Douglas and Edward Morfel—as well as the many countless friends he leaves behind. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all during this difficult time.

TIANANMEN SQUARE MASSACRE  
CONTINUES IN CHINA OFTEN  
OUT OF SIGHT BEHIND CLOSED  
DOORS

**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 4, 2009*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, the brave and tenacious heroes of Tiananmen Square will never be forgotten nor will their huge sacrifice—for some torture and for others even death—be in vain.

Future generations of Chinese—and other advocates of democracy worldwide—will forever honor their courage, vision and dream of democracy. The Chinese people deserve no less. The Chinese are a great people—and deserve democratic institutions and respect for the rule of law that reflects that greatness.

Twenty years after Tiananmen, pro-democracy advocates remain in concentration camps

subjected to torture, myriad forms of humiliation and degrading treatment.

They must be freed, unconditionally.

The Tiananmen Square massacre was a turning point in China—and not for the better. The hard-liners in Beijing have since unleashed unprecedented cruelty on labor leaders, political prisoners, religious believers, and have committed massive crimes against women and children through forced abortion.

The ugly spirit of the Tiananmen Square massacre continues today unabated throughout China, with brutality and efficiency only the Nazis could love.

With some notable exceptions including last year's savage crackdown on Tibetans the Chinese leadership has taken their murder and torture behind closed doors, where the cries, screams, and tears of thousands of dissidents are heard by no one except the torturers themselves.

For its part, the international community has failed to seriously challenge China's massive human rights violations—and that includes the weak and feckless response of the United States of America. That includes the Bush Administration, that includes the Clinton Administration, that includes the Obama Administration and that includes Congress.

That must change.

When Secretary of State Hillary Clinton visited China a few months ago to peddle U.S. treasury bonds to finance U.S. debt, she said human rights shouldn't be allowed to "interfere" with that and other issues.

Wittingly or not, that attitude enables the Chinese dictatorship to continue brutalizing its own people.

And while I respect President Obama's outreach to Muslims in Cairo today, that event surely could have been scheduled for any other day but the 20th Anniversary of the Tiananmen Square massacre.

This solemn remembrance of the victims of mass murder at Tiananmen Square and the crushing of their bodies and hopes by tanks and bayonets, should have been the White House's major event today.

Meanwhile, on this tragic 20th anniversary of the Tiananmen Square Massacre, I am afraid that, American technology and know-how is actually enabling the Chinese Government to repress the truth about what happened on that day—about which it is absolutely vital that the Chinese people know the truth. After all, it is the truth about their history.

Similarly, while the internet has opened up commercial opportunities and provided access to vast amounts of information for people the world over, the internet has also become a malicious tool: a cyber sledgehammer of repression of the government of China. As soon as the promise of the Internet began to be fulfilled—when brave Chinese began to email each other and others about human rights issues and corruption by government leaders—the Party cracked down. To date, an estimated 49 cyber-dissidents and 32 journalists have been imprisoned by the PRC for merely posting information on the Internet critical of the regime. And that's likely to be only the tip of the iceberg. Of course, one of the points on which the Chinese Government is most eager to crack down is dissemination of the truth about Tiananmen.

Tragically, history shows us that American companies and their subsidiaries have provided the technology to crush human rights in